

# **( Revised Draft) Minutes of the Public Transportation and Bicycle committee Meeting**

## **July 17, 2012**

**Committee in Attendance:** Sanjay Arwade, John Forrest Bamberger, Richard Fein, Dorie Goldman, Karen Kowles, Fran VanTreese

**Also:** Glenn Barrington, Guilford Mooring

**Guests:** Kevin Noonan, several University students

### **Buses:**

1. Report from **Glenn:**

Ridership Report:

There were 2,841,826 passenger trips last *(fiscal??)* year

An overall ridership increase of 1%.

For the Route #32 bus, the increase in passenger trips is 5000, about an( *18 % increase ??*).

Schedules for FY 13 have been submitted

### **2 Report from Fran:**

The Route #37 bus survey is shows respondents overwhelmingly in favor of **extending the Route 37 bus to the Mountain Farms Mall. Many of the respondents said they favored this because the Route 37 was free**, unlike the B-47. As to time of day, there is no consensus. Many respondents favored a stop at McKesson building.

**3. Suggestion from Kevin Noonan (guest).** Try to extend the #31 to go beyond **Boulders, Brittany Manor and Southport down East Hadley Road to the Malls. Glenn** commented that it would cost a lot of money. Also, it is important to keep bus schedules constant rather than only 4 times a day. Also this extension would be in a rural route that doesn't have many houses. In addition, if someone was not going to the Mall, they would need to travel circuitously through Town. In sum there would be a significant addition to operating cost and the need to purchase two new buses ( at \$600,00 each).

**Guilford:** would be best to extend the Amity Shuttle

Karen: The suggestion shows creative thinking.

**Glenn:** The extension would decrease ridership on some other routes (I.e. #32) and increase headway ( that is the time between buses). **Glenn** said that he would work out the cost per trip to add trips to the mall onto the Route 31 schedule if requested to investigate this possibility by the PVTa. Glenn suggests that the PTBC make a recommendation to John Musante to bring this topic up with the PVTa if they are interested in pursuing it. Glenn is not in favor of making this change to the Route 31 schedule.

**John:** we should study the possibility of a sliding scale for bus passes for low income people.

A motion ***not*** to support at this time funding for the Route #37 extension as discussed was passed 5-0-1

### **Amherst Survival Center**

**Fran:** Waiting a response from the Town Manager to the letter sent on behalf of the PTBC in mid- June requesting his support for bus service proximate to the new home of the ASC on Old Sunderland Road.

**Glenn: Nicole Rohan** of the PVTa has asked Glenn to draw up a schedule and its attendant costs for extended service to the ASC. **Senator Stan Rosenberg** contacted Ms. Rohan on this matter.

The draft plan would add an express service to the #32 bus route as the least expensive option. That said, the ASC may need to make some adjustments to its hours of operation.

### **Pine Street Conceptual Plans**

**Guilford:** Explained various cross sections. Sidewalks would be 5 feet in width, bike lanes 4 feet and travel lanes 12 feet. Many questions were asked by the Committee. There were some comments from guests.

There are some tree issues. **Dorie** expressed concern about the loss of trees (Dorie also expressed concern about trees cut down by the electric company).

Concern was expressed about car speed issues. **Guilford** suggested some mitigation techniques, but nothing will completely resolve the problem.

**Fran:** Could lines be painted to differentiate the lanes?

**Guilford:** It would be possible to use green paint (lots of it) but this has had mixed reviews when done in other places.

Committee members were urged to email *comments regarding the Pine Street* plans to the **Department of Public Works**

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**Fran urged committee members to think about supporting Cape Cod Curbs which are gently sloped to allow bicyclists a safe exit from the road.**

**Sanjay** moved to recommend the creation of a conceptual design for Pine Street that includes multi-use path 8 feet to 10 feet wide in lieu of specific bike lane and side walk. Fran seconded. Passed 4-0-1.

### **Mill Street Bridge:**

Closed for now to motor vehicles. Open for bikes and pedestrians. Next step is uncertain.

**Question:** What should the PTBC's position be regarding the Puffers Pond Plan?

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM  
Next meeting will be in September

Richard Fein  
Secretary

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